



*The Task of the  
Presbyterian Church  
in the Philippines*

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**THE TASK OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE  
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

As seen by the Deputation party of the Board of Foreign Missions who visited the Islands in 1915, consisting of Secretary Robert E. Speer, Treasurer Dwight H. Day, Medical Advisor, Dr. David Bovaird, and Mr. T. Guthrie Speers.

## THE PHILIPPINE MISSION

**MANILA:** on the Island of Luzon; occupied 1899. Missionaries—Rev. James B. Rodgers, D.D., and Mrs. Rodgers, Rev. George W. Wright and Mrs. Wright, Miss Clyde Bartholomew, Mr. Charles A. Gunn and Mrs. Gunn, Miss Emma J. Hannan, Miss Julia M. Hodge.

**ILOILO:** on the Island of Panay; occupied 1900. Missionaries—J. Andrew Hall, M.D., and Mrs. Hall, Rev. Paul Doltz and Mrs. Doltz.

**DUMAGUETE:** on the Island of Negros; occupied 1901. Missionaries—Rev. David S. Hibbard, Ph.D., and Mrs. Hibbard, H. W. Langheim, M.D., and Mrs. Langheim, Mr. Charles A. Glunz and Mrs. Glunz, Mr. James P. Eskridge and Mrs. Eskridge, Mr. Carlos E. Smith, Rev. Wm. J. Smith and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Christian H. Hanlin and Mrs. Hanlin, Rev. Herman R. Berger and Mrs. Berger.

**CEBU:** on the Island of Cebu; occupied 1902. Missionaries—Rev. Fred Jansen and Mrs. Jansen, Rev. George W. Dunlap and Mrs. Dunlap, Miss Florence C. Heywang.

**LAGUNA:** P. O., Santa Cruz., on Laguna de Bay, Luzon; occupied 1903. Missionaries—Rev. Charles R. Hamilton, D.D., and Mrs. Hamilton.

**LEYTE:** P. O., Tacloban, on the Island of Leyte; occupied 1903. Missionaries—Rev. Charles E. Rath and Mrs. Rath, Warren J. Miller, M.D., and Mrs. Miller.

**ALBAY:** P. O., Albay, in the southeastern part of the Island of Luzon; occupied 1903. Missionaries—Rev. Roy H. Brown and Mrs. Brown.

**TAYABAS:** P. O., Lucena, 80 miles southwest of Manila, on the Island of Luzon; occupied 1906. Missionaries—Rev. Charles N. Magill, D.D., and Mrs. Magill.

BOHOL: P. O., Tagbilaran, on the Island of Bohol; occupied 1909. Missionaries—Dr. James A. Graham and Mrs. Graham, Miss Margaret M. Barnett.

CAMARINES: P. O., Naga, on the Island of Luzon, between the Provinces of Tayabas and Albay; occupied 1910. Missionaries—Rev. Kenneth P. MacDonald and Mrs. MacDonald.

# THE TASK OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

## I. AS SEEN BY A LAYMAN

The achievements of the Government of the United States in the Philippine Islands, for the Filipino people are probably unrivaled in the history of Colonial development. The wisdom with which the work has been planned, the skill and honesty with which it has been executed, and the spirit of true brotherliness by which it has everywhere throughout the Islands been pervaded, cause a thrill of pleasure to spring up in the heart of a visiting American.

Great, however, as has been the leadership of the United States for the Philippines, and true as has been the spirit of officials and teachers toward their wards, these have not been adequate to meet the deepest needs of these 8,000,000 Malaysians. No wise person ever would have thought that material development, education, and sanitation would be sufficient. No place has been made for religion, and without God in the life of the Nation, consciously apprehended, the people can never truly live and progress.

So Christians, looking at the situation, and appreciating the awful responsibility laid upon them, have gone into the Islands for the purpose of leading the Filipino people into a knowledge and love of God.

*How is this task to be accomplished?*

## I. EVANGELISTIC WORK

The supremely important purpose to be held steadfastly in view in all Christian missionary work is *the establishment and development of Church organizations.* (a)

Because the church congregation is the body appointed to hold and disseminate the truth about God and Christ. (b) It can best do this because it secures the co-operation and combination of individuals and families, the latter being the units of society. (c) By meeting together they grow in the Christian life through having spiritual development in common. (d) The church is the reservoir out of which must flow the life which must be consecrated to the evangelization of any nation. No amount of foreign assistance can ever evangelize a nation. The work must be done by the nation itself, and by those in the nation who have been born and reared in the native church. The church is the source of this supply and without the church there will be no supply and nations will not be evangelized. Our task in the Philippines then, is to establish churches of Filipino people, teaching them that they must be self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

## II. EDUCATION

But churches need leadership, their own pastors must be educated and trained and made capable of guiding their people. Moreover churches will be built up all the more quickly if children are early taught in the things pertaining to the Christian life. The 600,000 children of the Government Schools learn nothing about God or Christ in the schools. The Bible is forbidden to be taught and no public school teacher is permitted to hold classes in Bible instruction. The task of the missionaries, therefore, is to (a) provide theological training for Christian young men, that they may become true and competent ministers for the Filipino churches. (b) To get into personal relationships with school boys and girls in such ways that the Bible and Christian truth can be taught them. This is accomplished through the building of dormi-

tories near Government Schools where boys and girls can be housed under the supervision of the missionary and where instruction can be freely given. Very little needs to be done by the mission in secular education, as the Government assumes the responsibility for this in the Islands.

### III. MEDICAL WORK

All good medical work in the missions contributes its influence toward the establishing of churches. People who find help and healing in the hospitals are made into friends of the missionaries. Prejudice is disarmed and instead of bigoted criticism and opposition the benefited ones are ready for counsel and advice and further leading. So it is that under a good system of follow-up, patients are sought out and brought into church fellowship with Christians. Often they could not be gotten hold of at all, were it not for the beneficent work of the missionary physician and his wife, and the nurses. At Tagbilaran a priest had bitterly denounced the hospital to his people, but a plague coming upon him, he himself became a patient and his friendship was won. Our task for the medical work is to see that our missionary physicians have good hospitals, that they are supplied with good equipment, and that where a home for nurses is required, this is provided.

Evangelistic, educational and medical work, all these lines of endeavor are leading the Filipino people into the light of the free Gospel of Christ, centered and bound up in self-sustaining churches.

OUR TASK IN THE PHILIPPINES CALLS FOR (1) PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY THAT GOD WILL SEND FORTH FILIPINO LABORERS INTO THE HARVEST, (2) FOR LIFE TO GO OUT TO THE ISLANDS TO RADIATE LIFE, (3) FOR SACRI-

FICE AND DEVOTION BY THOSE WHO  
REMAIN AT HOME TO THE END  
THAT GIFTS WILL BE MADE ADE-  
QUATE TO THE NEEDS THAT CALL  
LOUDLY TO US FROM THESE OUR  
WARDS.

DWIGHT H. DAY,  
*Treasurer of the Presbyterian  
Board of Foreign Missions.*



## II. AS SEEN BY A STUDENT

"Our Government would not be a success unless we had our religion in it, and so it will be in the future also." Thus spoke a young Christian Filipino student. We were visiting a school on the island of Panay. A special meeting had been called to welcome Mr. Speer, during which some of the older boys spoke briefly, telling what the school had done for them. The fellow who uttered these words, was, as I remember it, the president of the senior class. Now as he neared the end of his school years, his thoughts turned, as did those of the other members of his class, towards the part that each one of them hoped to play in the government of his country in the years that were to come. And to us who listened, it was inspiring to note that his dreams of political activity could not be dissociated from his love for the religion to which he had given his allegiance during those years spent in a Christian school.

An overwhelming proportion of the graduates of the high schools in the Philippine Islands have political and professional ambitions. Of the twenty-five graduates of one provincial high school about which we were told, all but two took up the study of law in order to fit themselves to take an active part in politics. If the government of the Islands is in the future to be based upon Christian principles, if its aim as a nation is to be the upbuilding of God's kingdom of righteousness and love on earth, then must the youth of this present generation be won to the service of Christ, and firmly grounded in the principles which He taught.

Are the forces of the Presbyterian church coping with this problem? Not for a moment would I give the impression that this comprises the whole of our duty in the Islands. There are other tasks to which the church must turn its hand and its brain.

But, being a student myself, this is the part of our responsibility which appealed to me most strongly during our visit last summer.

There are 620,000 Filipino boys and girls attending school to-day. Between 1912 and 1914 there were 22,336 boys graduated from the primary grades of the public schools. These are potential electors for they may now claim suffrage on the basis of having fulfilled the educational requirements of the law. What are we doing for these boys?

We have a large and splendid school at Dumaguete on the island of Negros, where it is hoped that a thousand students may be taken care of each year. These boys are learning Christianity. What they receive they pass on to others. While at Silliman Institute a letter from a missionary on the island of Mindanao informed us that during a recent tour of the northern coast of that island he had found that though no missionary was at work there, the whole coast had been evangelized by the boys from Silliman returning to their homes in the summer and telling their friends of the new life which had been given them. It is such boys as these who must be made not only the leaders in politics but also the ministers of the Filipino church if the future of the Islands is to be conserved for Christ. Educated leaders are in demand everywhere, but as yet there are all too few of them in the Philippines.

It does not follow, however, that the Presbyterian church should attempt to found more of such schools. For one of the finest things that our government has accomplished is the establishment of a splendid public school system. It is true that these schools have been carefully non-religious just as they are in the United States, but in connection with them we must find our greatest opportunity for reaching the Filipino youth with a knowledge of Christ. In each provincial capital a high school is

located, and to these the boys and girls come, literally by the hundreds. The great majority of them thus are from out of town. In Tacloban, which stands second in schools in the Islands, 95 per cent. of the high school pupils are non-resident. They live wherever they can find accommodations, some boarding together in little groups, others scattered far and wide over the city. In many cases their lodgings are unsanitary or the light for study is bad, and only too often they are surrounded with temptations to which we would fear to have our Christian high school boys submitted. Could there be any greater opportunity offered to our church in the Philippine Islands?

We have not neglected this opportunity. In nearly every station that we visited, dormitories had already been built or were in the process of erection. Here the boys find clean, well-lighted rooms, good food, recreation that is wholesome, and influences that are Christian. Sometimes a young missionary lives with them. In every case much of his time is spent in their society, playing with them, helping them to study, teaching them and talking with them about Christ. Think of the opportunity thus offered for the moulding of young lives. It is a wonderful work!

But how little of it there really is,—one Christian dormitory containing perhaps 40 boys, in a town where hundreds are attending school. It is impossible to have a large number of boys in a dormitory for one man cannot give them the attention that he should. **THERE MUST BE MORE DORMITORIES, AND MORE MEN TO CARE FOR THEM. IS THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EQUAL TO THIS TASK? IS SHE FULLY AWAKE TO HER OPPORTUNITY? WHO WILL HELP TO MAKE HER SO?**

**THOMAS GUTHRIE SPEERS,**

*Asst. Pas. in the University Place Church, N. Y. City.*

### III. AS SEEN BY A PHYSICIAN

Dean Worcester in his "Philippines Past and Present," tells us that at the time of the occupation of the islands by the United States troops there was not in all the islands a surgeon capable of opening the abdominal cavity and performing an ordinary abdominal operation. At that time also contagious diseases ran riot everywhere throughout the islands. As many as 40,000 people are said to have died of small-pox in a single year. Plague, cholera, and the like were frequent invaders. The meaning of hygiene and sanitation was practically unknown. Outside Manila and the larger cities there were few physicians, and large numbers of the people were altogether without medical attendance. Eighteen years of hard, intelligent work on the part of the authorities have changed all this. A year ago the great San Lazaro Hospital, which is expected to care for all the cases of dangerous contagious disease originating in Manila and its environs in mid-summer, housed only a few diphtheria-carriers and a group of lepers, the latter there only pending their removal to the leper colony on the Island of Culion. All the virulent diseases which had so long ravaged the country and made Manila famous as a disease center had been brought under more or less complete control. Manila and its surroundings are rapidly approaching in healthfulness the standards of the average American city. Furthermore, there has been established in Manila a university with a medical school so well equipped and staffed as to rank in Class A of the American Medical Association, the group to which our best home schools belong, and that school is now annually turning out a number of thoroughly educated medical practitioners. The Philippines General Hospital, which is part of the university organization, contains 350 beds and has an exceptionally well-planned and or-

ganized out-patient department. Both hospital and clinic are equipped and conducted in a manner to call forth most sincere admiration. So long as these institutions are kept at the high standard they have already attained, the future of medical education in the islands seems assured and before many years the Philippines should have a thoroughly educated native medical profession.

In the provincial capitals the government has placed sanitary officers and established hospitals. Everywhere throughout the islands hygiene is being taught and works of sanitation carried on by the government representatives so thoroughly that from the viewpoint of health the conditions have been revolutionized. And yet the work is not all done by any means. A large part of the population, especially the so-called non-Christian tribes, is practically without medical care.

Just how many physicians there were in the islands at the time of the occupation is not known, certainly not enough to begin to care for all the people, even if they had been thoroughly trained men, and very few of them could make that claim. In 1913 the Board of Examiners, the official licensing body of the islands, granted licenses to 60 practitioners and to 15 cirujanos ministrantes, the latter a curious survival of the ancient regime representing men who have spent two years in medical study in the old University of St. Thomas and are not fitted to pass the examinations for license and yet desire to exercise some of the elementary functions of the physician. In 1914 the Board licensed 35 practitioners and 11 of the second grade; in 1915, 53 practitioners and 7 of the second grade. The United States, with approximately 12 times the population of the Philippines, in 1914 licensed 5,797 practitioners, or 160 times as many as qualified in the islands in that year. It would be safe to say that

we have at least 10 physicians for every one in the islands. Perhaps we have too many, but it is certain that the Philippines have too few. The wild tribes have practically not been touched and, as Worcester says, they offer a rich field for missionary effort.

Just how much has our church done to meet these needs of the people of the islands? One of the first missionaries sent out by our Board was Dr. J. Andrew Hall. Dr. Hall located at Iloilo, on the Island of Panay, and there with the co-operation of the Baptist Board has developed a hospital, which is one of the outstanding features of the mission work in the islands.

Each board is supposed to be represented by a physician and an American trained nurse, but several years ago the Baptist physician, Dr. Thomas, was obliged to return to the home-land, and last year the nurse representing our Board resigned, so that at present the work is being carried on by Dr. Hall and Miss Benedict, of the Baptist Mission. So successful has the work of the hospital been that it commands the enthusiastic support of the people of Iloilo and its environs, and the neighboring province of Occidental Negros. A considerable enlargement and improvement of the equipment of the hospital are planned, and Dr. Hall is confident that the funds for these purposes can readily be obtained from the field. The hospital takes pride in the fact that the first attempt to train the Filipino young women as nurses was made within its walls. The training school is now an important part of the work of the hospital.

At Dumaguete in connection with the Silliman Institute, Dr. Langheim has carried on another successful medical mission of the Board. The small hospital originally established beside the institute, has recently been replaced by a modern building of concrete construction, capable of caring for 40 patients. This institution is

invaluable as an adjunct of Silliman Institute, with its more than 700 students, and with its increased facilities should be able to exert a powerful influence over the whole province of Oriental Negros.

At Tagbilaran, on the Island of Bohol, Dr. Graham, with the aid of Miss Barnet, an American trained nurse, conducts a medical mission centering about a small hospital. This is a comparatively new station, but the work gives promise of influence over the whole island. Another new station has recently been opened at Tacloban, on the Island of Leyte, by Dr. Miller, who is working enthusiastically among the people of the town and of as wide an area of the country round about it as can be reached by the aid of a motorcycle. Down on the southeastern corner of Luzon, in the city of Albay, Dr. Robert Carter was stationed for a brief nine months, but two years ago he was forced to return home on account of illness. During the short period of his service in the city he made a deep impression upon the people, so that he is gratefully remembered and his return longed for.

This brief summary of the conditions prevailing in the islands and the work undertaken by our Board, gives indications of the duty that rests upon us. In the first place we need to strengthen the work already in hand. The prime need is an unattached physician who can be used to carry on the work in any station from which the regular incumbent is absent, whether on furlough or for any other reason. Since furloughs are necessary, not only for health but to permit the physicians to keep abreast of the progress of medicine and maintain their enthusiasm for their work, and since sickness will come from time to time, it is absolutely essential to the proper conduct of the work of the Board to have at least one physician in a position to act as a substitute.

Every institution in the field is also in need of improved equipment. As already stated in connection with the Union Hospital of Iloilo, this need can in some cases be met by contributions from the field. In other instances the aid must come from home. In one way or the other the need must be met. This is one of the great problems of medical mission work. Hospitals at home call for heavy and increasing outlay. If medical mission work is to worthily represent the gospel it preaches, it must keep step with progress and conduct its work efficiently. That can only be done where funds are available for the renewal and improvement of equipment and is specially needed in the Philippines because of the excellence of the institutions provided by the government.

The second great need is for medical missionaries in stations where there are none at present. One is needed at Albay to replace Dr. Carter. Mr. Hamilton is eager for the aid of a medical man at Tayabas, and Mr. McDonald makes the same plea for Naga. Can these pleas be answered?

Let not the reader think that there is any confusion as to the prime purpose of the Presbyterian Church in the Philippine Islands. We have gone there to help the people of the archipelago. We devoutly believe that we shall help them most by giving them to know the faith which means salvation to us. But the Christian message has always included healing for the body as well as the soul. Dr. Rogers has well said that the representatives of mission boards have not been the only missionaries in the islands. To make of the pestilential moat that formerly bounded the walls of Manila a healthful park and playground, to drill artesian wells and thus provide the people with safe drinking water, these works of beneficence are surely Christian service. Wherever there are sick and suf-



fering men and women to whom we may lend help, there is a proper field for missionary effort.

And finally there are the wild tribes, a million men, women and children without the gospel and without medical care! The government has begun efforts for some of these people. The Episcopal church under the inspiring leadership of Bishop Brent has also undertaken work in some places among them. The great body of them remains untouched. CAN OUR CHURCH AFFORD TO LEAVE THIS FIELD TO OTHERS? DOUBTLESS THE WORK WILL BE ATTENDED WITH DIFFICULTIES AND PERILS, AND DOUBTLESS FOR MANY YEARS THE RETURNS WILL BE SMALL, BUT THE CHALLENGE TO NOBLE, SACRIFICIAL SERVICE IS THERE. CAN OUR CHURCH NOT ANSWER IT?

DAVID BOVAIRD, M.D.

*Medical Advisor of the Presbyterian  
Board of Foreign Missions.*

#### IV. AS SEEN BY A SECRETARY

It is easy to learn the names of the main islands of the Philippines, and to picture to oneself their general geographical relationship. At the north and the south are the two largest islands, Luzon and Mindanao, and it is interesting to hear almost everyone who knows these islands comparatively, speak with chief enthusiasm about Mindanao as the greatest and most attractive and valuable of them all. Between Luzon and Mindanao, in a row stretching from west to east are the islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, and Samar. The Spaniards discovered them from east to west, but in their present development and commercial expansion, they can be almost ranged in the contrary order.

#### A NEW DAY IN MANILA

At the southwestern corner of the old walled city of Manila, beyond the sunken gardens which were once the moat of the city and near the little part of Luneta, looking out upon the sea, stand two monuments. One is in memory of the two great forces which shaped the life and history of the Philippine Islands for four hundred years. The other is in memory of Rizal, the Filipino patriot, shot as a revolutionist in 1896, whose protests against the ancient order of injustice were the forerunners of the new day that has dawned. The American Government reared them in candid recognition of all that has been worthy in the past, and in fearless acknowledgment of the spirit of liberty.

Our interest is deepest, of course, in the contribution which evangelical Christianity has been making toward this great praiseworthy advancement of a worthy and lovable people, and we have studied as was our business, the agencies and forces through which the free and living Gospel, borne by the evangelical missions, is operating, the Episcopal, Methodist and Christian hos-

pitals, the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist dormitories to provide the moral helps and sympathies needed by the young men and women crowding the higher schools of the capital, the Union Theological Seminary, on which Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Christians, United Brethren, each recognize themselves to be a component part, the training schools for Bible women of the Methodists and the Presbyterians.

The last Sunday evening of our stay in the Philippines, I spoke at a union meeting of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, in the Tondo District of the city. The large church and Sunday School room were packed to the walls, and the doorways jammed with listeners. As I looked out over the multitude of eager and reverent worshipers, I could not but contrast this day with the day that I passed by the Philippine Islands through the China Sea eighteen years ago. Then there was not an evangelical church in the island, now there are nearly five hundred. Then, I suppose there was not a Filipino who was a member of an evangelical church. That evening I was looking out over hundreds and hundreds of them, and knew that for every one hundred in the room that night there were ten thousand more throughout the islands. Who can forecast the fruitage of the future when the tides of life which are just beginning to flow, have risen to their flood?

#### THROUGH THE COCOANUT GROVES OF LAGUNA AND TAYABAS

Scattered through these two provinces is some of our most fruitful and encouraging work in the Philippine Islands. In Laguna, with its population of 156,000 and area of 629 square miles we have eighteen congregations in sixteen towns, six of which are regularly organized churches, with elders and deacons. The church in San Pablo, like many of our churches now, has a young pastor trained in the Union Theo-

logical Seminary in Manila conducted by the Methodists, the United Brethren and ourselves. The graduates are active, vigorous young men, some of them with surprisingly good theological libraries in English. There is a great deal needing to be done in the development of methods of education of the church membership in knowledge of the Bible and in active work, and most of our Filipino churches are very backward in the matter of self-support, but the Union Seminary, having the training of all the men of these different denominations, has also the opportunity of sending almost the entire evangelical ministry of the Philippine Islands out to its work with right ideals and true spirit.

It is interesting to trace the beginnings of the work in the different congregations and to see how almost invariably the first seed was brought by some lay Christian. The work at Bay, the town from which the lake takes its name, was begun by a road foreman who was a member of the Tondo Church in Manila and who, removing to Bay, at once began talking with his friends and acquaintances concerning his faith in Christ, and holding small meetings at which he preached the Gospel as well as he could. How can we ever hope to evangelize the world unless we do it in this way? If only every professing Christian man and woman who has ever gone out from America or Great Britain to the foreign field, on business or for pleasure, had gone with this Christian obligation to spread the Gospel, we should have double the fruitage from missionary work which we now have.

The Tayabas province surrounds the Laguna on the south and east. It has a population of about 250,000 people, and one specially encouraging feature in its work is the report by the native ministers of a larger number of people in the Sunday Schools than in the church membership. Lucena, the capital of the province, is a

pleasant town on the west coast of the island. Wherever we have gone in the islands, we have visited the high schools and intermediate schools, and have accepted every invitation that offered to speak to them. One could not find more attentive, responsive and enthusiastic audiences. And here at Lucena they seemed specially open to such an appeal in behalf of duty and character, as was appropriate to make in a government school. On the wall near the piano in the main school room, hung the motto, "Think the truth, speak the truth, do the truth."

### IN SOUTHERN LUZON

One missionary is alone in charge of the work in the two provinces in Albay with a population of 350,000 and of Sorsogon with a population of 150,000. Two ordained Filipino ministers and three evangelists are working with him in the eight congregations of Albay, the seven of Sorsogon and their fifteen Sunday Schools.

We visited the congregations at three of the municipios outside of Albay. At Guinobatan it was the annual Sunday fiesta of the saint of the Roman Catholic Church of the town, and the people in their best clothes were gathered as at a country fair at home. It was a strong contrast that was presented to us when we turned from this innocent but non-religious revelry, with a church as its center, to go into the neat and simple chapel, built by the people themselves, and filled with quiet and intelligent worshipers reading their Bibles and singing their hymns with no less happiness in their hearts, than the revelers in the old church and in the village square, but with a quite different conception of religion and of what it is that gave their sainthood to the saints when they lived on earth, and gives them joy now where they live in God. A few days later, on a week-day night when they thought it would be appropriate,

the church at Camalig showed that even though they were evangelistics, they had a fiesta spirit, too, and as we approached their church, welcomed us with the full tumult of the municipal band, loaned for the occasion by the Presidente of the town.

In Albay itself, the capital of the province, the work opens up a limitless opportunity. There is a battalion of American soldiers here without a chaplain. There is a Filipino church in the city with outstretching missionary efforts in Legaspi and Deraga. The provincial high school is in Albay, and here hundreds of earnest boys and girls come up from all over the province. There is a little American community also to be shepherded, personal work with all classes of people to be done, and the duties of an apostle and bishop to be met, as far as a modern missionary can meet them in these two wide provinces.

Immediately to the north of Albay and Sorsogon, lies the province of the two Camarines. A large province full of forests, with many sections unreached as yet by the wonderful system of roads which the American administration is spreading over the Islands. Much of the itinerating has still to be done on foot or by native boats; but by iteration, by the work of the young Filipino evangelists, through the provincial high school in Naga, and the boys who have come up to the school, by a little chapel in the heart of Naga into which the students thronged, and the doors and windows of which were packed with outside listeners when we were there—the seed has been sown far and wide across the fields and the mountains of the province, and the seed has life in it and a promise upon it. "It shall not return unto me void" is the word that cannot be broken. Nowhere in the Philippine Islands, however, has it seemed harder to win the women; but surely if anyone can do it by tact and love, our missionary will succeed.

## CHRIST IN CEBU

The Island of Cebu is one of the most populous though not most prosperous of all the Philippines. In the old times it was one of the most lawless and disorderly, and its mountain valleys were hotbeds of insurrection in the early days of the American occupation. Now it is one of the most tranquil, happy, well-contented of all the provinces. It has suffered from drought and famine and grass-hopper plagues, but the good government and complete suppression of brigandage, the increase of the cultivated areas, the security of the people in the possession and enjoyment of their crops, the development of beautiful roads, the opening of a railroad running a good part of the length of the island, the increase of enlightenment and the growth of true religion, have been some of the influences which have spread a spirit of peace and happiness throughout the island.

And if any American thinks meanly of his country, or doubts the value of the work it has done in the Philippines he should make this visit to Cebu, for he could not visit the island without an overwhelming realization of the beneficence of the work which our nation has done here.

The itinerating work of the station many years ago, in the insurrecto days, resulted in congregations which grew up and are scattered from one end of the long island to the other. One day of our visit was spent back in the mountains, with one of the hill country congregation. The beautiful little chapel which the people had built unaided, was on a high hill looking out to the distant sea.

It was a weekday, but the people had left their work and come from their little farms scattered among the hills the men, women and children all together. Ten years ago these people, half fed, cultivating only little patches of ground, dressed in rags and naked

to the waist, were dwelling on the edge of life. Now with the country at peace, and sure of their property, they are cultivating eight or ten times the soil they formerly cultivated, and none of our Sunday congregations at home could appear with more dignity and propriety, or look more attractive than this congregation at Cabangahan. We had meetings all morning and afternoon, and nowhere at home would one find more eager, responsive listeners than these were, or hearts that answered with more overflowing joy to the appeal of Christian faith and love. Missionary unbelief or indifference is simply impossible to one who has seen the reality of the work as we have seen it amid such true and simple-hearted Christians as these.

#### ON THE ISLAND OF LEYTE

In Leyte, the new tides of life are stirring. Between eight and nine hundred boys and girls have poured up from all over the province to the provincial high and intermediate school in Tacloban, and over two hundred more have come up to the trades school. The province claims more first class school buildings than any other province, and between a third and a half of all its children of school age are in school. Ten evangelical congregations have sprung up along the whole length of the island and the work in the provincial capital among the high school pupils is scattering, as it is in every province where we have missionaries, an intelligent and sympathetic interest in the Bible and the Christianity of the Bible through all the municipalities and out into many of the barrios, or villages of the province.

The happy arrangements of missionary comity which prevail in the Philippine Islands have assigned the islands of Leyte, Bohol and Cebu and one-half of Negros and a little less than half of Panay, to the Presbyterian missionaries. In Tacloban



only the church has been completed as yet. The hospital is to come next, and no one could see the missionary's clinic without appreciating the necessity for it. The waiting patients were packed together on the front porch of his house, some of them were cared for there, while others were led through the living-room into the dispensary and operating room adjoining the doctor's bedroom. Under the house, one large room was filled in part with patients, in part with high school boys using the room as a dormitory. A specially serious case was cared for in a temporary room boarded in under the front steps.

The foolish things common in South America and in the earlier years here, such as jeers on the street at Protestants, and stones on the chapel roof, are still met with in Tacloban. But all this is wearing away. One of the very priests who still publicly warns his people against the Protestant doctrine is privately the Protestant Doctor's patient. And the old blindness and bigotry are gone forever from the minds of the eager and responsive boys and girls who, away from their homes, many of them living in lonely little groups in cheap boarding places throughout the town, are wide open to friendship and interested in all that they hear, when they come to the evangelical church.

Here as everywhere we have seen the clean and efficient work which the American government has done for the benefit of the Philippine Islands. Services like these penetrate deep, but they cannot penetrate deeply enough. Something more is needed in the regeneration and mastery of life, which only Jesus Christ can supply.

#### A JOINT MISSION FIELD

This island of Panay is a joint mission field, occupied by our missionaries and by the northern Baptists. There are three

provinces in the island. One of these is cared for wholly by the Baptists, another wholly by ourselves, and the third and largest containing the city of Iloilo, is divided between the two. Our part of the population of 750,000 is perhaps 250,000 or 300,000 and the evangelization of this population scattered over a large area in small towns and little barrios; our share in the maintenance of a union mission hospital and dormitory for boys attending the government high school in Iloilo, a necessary and fruitful ministry to the American population, and the establishment and supervision of day schools in districts which the government has not been able to touch, fall upon two men with their wives and one nurse in the hospital. They could not care for this work in the effective and fruitful way in which they are caring for it, were it not for the fact that they work with a half a dozen efficient Filipino pastors and evangelists, who with them, constitute the Presbytery of Panay, one of the three Presbyteries which make up the independent Filipino Synod in which the ambitions and efforts of the mission and the natural desires of the Filipinos have secured for the Presbyterian church in the island, complete self-government. The action of our home church in promoting this independence of the church in the Philippines has been justified.

We carry on with the Baptist as has been said, a union hospital and a union dormitory for government students who come from all over the province. We have a most happy distribution of responsibility which enables us to cover the whole field of the island as well as can be done with an inadequate staff of missionaries. We send our boys and girls and Bible women to the educational institutions of the Baptists at Jaro, and they make equally free use of our institution at Dumaguete which is in the eastern half of this Visayan

group of islands, of which Panay is the westernmost.

The Union Hospital is the only hospital in Iloilo, except St. Paul's, conducted by the Roman Catholics, but without an American medical missionary.

Life after life has passed beneath the influence of the missionary in the hospital, to emerge with health and strength restored, and also with character regenerated, and with a new and living Christian faith.

This young Filipino life is all eager and plastic now. In a heavy storm which put out the electric lights, a crowd of students came to the chapel and listened with an attention as silent as death and as eager as life, to what we had to say to them about character, and not the form of government and material wealth, as constituting the true strength and power of nations. Most of the time the meeting was in absolute darkness, and Mr. Moody's old lesson that character is what a man is in the dark, came home, I think, with real meaning to many of those warm-hearted, attractive Filipino lads.

#### A FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

Silliman Institute at Dumaguete has become a fountain of living water for all the central and southern Philippine Islands. The morning of the day of our arrival, it enrolled 699 students, and two more came in during the day. Three hundred boys, eager to come to work their way, had to be refused, as the school has no room for more; and cannot, without extension, enabling it to take more pay-students, or endowment, increasing its resources, carrying the burden of these hundreds of additional working students. A movement for enlargement has met with enthusiastic support among the parents of the boys, and those fathers who are eager to make it possible for their sons who have not been able

to get in to enjoy the benefits of the institute. Fifty thousand pesos, nearly, have been pledged and the missionaries hope to raise \$50,000 gold in the islands themselves, which they ask the home church to duplicate with another \$50,000.

Silliman aims to be a sort of combination of the Mt. Hermon School, Hampton Institute and Williams College for the Philippines, and has already laid its hold upon the confidence and affection of the islands. It is one of the four institutions whose arts degree is recognized by the University in Manila. The other three are two Roman Catholic Schools and the Arts department of the University itself. Wherever one goes through the islands, he hears only praise of the work of the Institute as a school, and yet more of its influence on manliness and character. It is beautiful to see the pride of the province of Oriental Negros in the Institution, and the good will of the insular educational authorities toward it. One of the most inspiring meetings that we attended on this trip, was held in the great hall of the institute. Five hundred students from the public high school and lower grades, marched in a body from their own buildings at the other end of the town. All the leading officials of the province came, the Governor, the ex-Governor, the Treasurer and three members of the assembly, the local judge and the land holders who from the beginning have welcomed the school and rejoiced in it.

On our way home from visits to the outlying chapels, which cheered our hearts and in which we sought to cheer the hearts of others, we passed, just before reaching Dumaguete, through the village of Sibulan with its little chapel conducted by its leading elder who is also the presidente of the village, and who with his wife, at their own charges, studied last year in the theological school of the mission at Manila,

that they might be better fitted to teach the living Gospel.

Five ordained Filipino pastors are working in this province, one of them with a church of nearly a thousand members, and another with a church of over five hundred. In addition to these pastors, there are twelve elders and five evangelists, several of them supported by the churches.

#### ON THE COAST OF BOHOL

Bohol is one of the smaller of the large islands of the Visayan group of the Philippines, and Tagbilaran on the southwestern corner of the island, and its capital is the home of three missionaries. Who are responsible for the evangelization of its 275,000 people?

The population of Bohol is in villages around the edge of the island or only a little distance inland. They were held here in the old days by the influence of the church whose parishes, scattered along the sea shore, sought to keep the people near at hand, and discouraged the development of the interior. In fourteen different centers there are now groups of evangelical believers gathered. We met with representatives of a number of these congregations, and nothing could have been more natural, and at the same time more supernatural than the way in which the Gospel had been brought and taken rootage. The most northwesterly congregation had grown out of the work of a man who had gone to the medical missionary then in Cebu, to get a piece of steel removed from his eye, and who after he had secured relief, lingered about watching the missionary, and studying the religious teaching which he had brought. Convinced of its truth, and with a personal experience of its love, he came back to spread Christian literature, and to gather a group of believers.

In still another center the church had grown from a beginning with one man who,

thirty-eight years ago, heard the Gospel in Singapore, who had been a friend of Rizal, the Filipino patriot, in Manila, in the days before there was any religious liberty, and who with the American occupation heard the Gospel once again, and believed. At Antioquera the Gospel had been brought in by young men who were peddlers, and who obtained New Testaments in their wanderings. And so in just the natural ways in which human influence always spread, the truth of the Gospel had gone abroad, and in the supernatural way that is characteristic of it, had germinated and borne living fruitage.

The mission chapel was packed to the walls, and the windows and front door away out to the middle of the road were crowded with listeners at the evening meeting during our visit. The Governor, the school teachers, the leading men and women of the community, were present, and the evening bell from the beautiful picturesque old Roman Church on the bluff overlooking the bay, called none of the audience away. If ever there was an open door for the Gospel in any land, it is in the Philippine Islands to-day.

### THE TASK

The population of the sections of the Philippine Islands entrusted to our mission for evangelization is about 2,500,000. To meet this responsibility we have 22 men of whom four are physicians and five are teachers, with 21 married and 5 single women.

Our field embraces 14 provinces. Missionaries live at present in but ten of these, the others are entirely open. To adequately occupy the territory, fill present vacancies, and staff Silliman Institute properly, the Mission asked when it had 19 men that the number be doubled.

“THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,” IT IS SAID, “IS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO

SHIRK ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND WE ARE ASSURED THAT IT WILL NOT DO SO IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE. WE ARE SURE IT WILL HELP US TO COME UP TO THE FULL MEASURE OF DUTY. There is no reason for looking on this work as one never to be finished, stretching out eternally and our never reaching the end. There is no need of another generation. Double our force and we promise with God's help, not that every soul shall accept His Gospel, but that every soul shall have a chance to do so during the coming ten or at the most fifteen years. The Philippine government covered the islands with its schools in three years, and has a complete, successful system of education running in ten. IS OUR BELOVED CHURCH LESS ABLE?"

ROBERT E. SPEER,  
*Secretary, Pres. Bd. of For. Missions.*



Administration Building, University of the Philippines,  
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